

Chief, D/S

17 January 1958

Chief, ERA

25X1A9a

Your Memo on Proposed Training for [REDACTED] dated
10 January 1958

1. This proposal has been discussed with the AD/RR. It is our opinion that the Summer Research Training Institute on Simulation of Cognitive Processes is not of direct applicability to [REDACTED]'s present 25X1A9a assignment or to possible future assignments within ORR.
2. It is recognized there probably will be no fee for the course, but transportation and per diem would have to be covered by this Office. These costs would run between \$450 and \$500.
3. In the event that techniques would be discussed at this summer session are further developed, future reconsideration on our participation may be more favorable than at the present time.

25X1A9a

[REDACTED]

Chief, St/A

10 January 1958

THRU : Chief, ERA
Chief, D/S

25X1A9a

Proposed Participation by [REDACTED] in the Social Science Research Council Summer Research Training Institute on Simulation of Cognitive Processes (23 June - 18 July 1958)

1. This institute is sponsored by the SSRC to familiarize social scientists with the use of digital computers to "simulate and study human cognitive processes." Participants, under the direction of specialists from RAND, Carnegie Institute of Technology, MIT, and elsewhere, will study "the rationale and technique of using computer programs as theories of human problem solving, concept formation, and social interaction." [REDACTED] who 25X1A9a is personally acquainted with one of the co-directors, Herbert Simon, head of the graduate school of industrial administration at Carnegie Tech, wrote informally to Simon, who has replied that an application would be encouraged even though it would not be possible in the application to specify the nature of CIA interest in this field. 25X1A9a

2. It is believed that this training institute would contribute significantly to [REDACTED] equipment for analysis of important trends in Soviet industrial management. Recent reading by [REDACTED] 25X1A9a of articles by Soviet specialists in the Academy of Sciences and elsewhere indicates that the Soviets are coming to devote as much attention as we are (and perhaps more) to the application of electronic computers to economic analysis and direction of enterprises and to the general processes of decision-making. Such Soviet technicians have also stressed that although there are "principled differences between the human brain and a machine, . . . prospects for the further development of cybernetic machines are very extensive . . . They will help us to study . . . psychological processes more deeply." A better understanding of such processes as they relate, among other things, to managerial decision-making, is, of course, prerequisite to their improvement. "Administrative automation" is only in its early stages, as compared with automation of production. In the future, however, the former, in all its ramifications, can have a tremendous impact -- perhaps even greater in the USSR, with its planned economy, than in the U.S.

25X1A9a

SUBJECT: Proposed Participation by [REDACTED] in the Social Science Research Council Summer Research Training Institute on Simulation of Cognitive Processes (23 June - 18 July 1958)

25X1A9a

3. If [REDACTED] participation seems desirable, his application, together with statements from 3 references (in CIA and Universities of California and Michigan), must be in the hands of the SSRC by 1 February 1958.

25X1A9a

[REDACTED]

cc: Chief, St/I